

A new species of *Pleurothallis* (Orchidaceae) from French Guyana

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Summary : A new species of *Pleurothallis* is described from French Guyana. It is distinguished by the small habit ; a short, few-flowered raceme at the base of a narrowly elliptical leaf ; acute sepals with the laterals free at the apex and forming a mentum at the base below the column-foot ; and an obovoid, unguiculate lip.

Résumé : Description d'une nouvelle espèce de *Pleurothallis* de Guyane française. Elle se distingue par sa petite taille ; un racème court, pauciflore, situé à la base d'une feuille elliptique étroite ; des sépales aigus, les latéraux libres au sommet et formant un menton à leur base sous le pied de la colonne ; et un labelle obvoïde onguiculé.

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Of approximately 1,200 species of *Pleurothallis* R. Br. known in the American tropics, only about 40 have been recognized from the Guianas, and only about 26 have been recorded from French Guyana. There is little doubt that more species of the genus known to occur elsewhere will eventually be discovered in these regions.

The present species adds one more to the list. It is a member of section *Brachystachyae* of subgenus *Acianthera* which is distinguished by an usually short raceme of fleshy flowers borne from the base of a thick, sessile leaf. The lateral sepals are more or less connate ; the petals are more or less denticulate ; and the lip is thick and bicarinate, with erect, more or less lobed margins.

***Pleurothallis barthelemyi* Luer, sp. nov.**

Inter species sectionis Brachystachyae subgeneris Aciantherae, species haec habitu parvo, racemo paucifloro folio anguste elliptico brevior, sepalis roseis glabris acutis lateralibus base mentosis, petalis acutis minute denticulatis et labello obovoideo apice rotundo minute denticulato base unguiculato distinguitur.

TYPE : *C. Luer, J. Luer & D. Barthelemy 12241*, French Guyana, epiphytic in tall, rain forest, Piste St. Elie, alt. 100 m, 13 May 1986 (holo-, MO).

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose ; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect or suberect, 1.5-3 cm long, with a tubular sheath below the middle and 2-3 others at the base. Leaf erect, thickly coriaceous, narrowly elliptical, acute, 4.5-5.5 cm long, 0.8-0.9 cm wide, narrowly cuneate below into the sessile base.

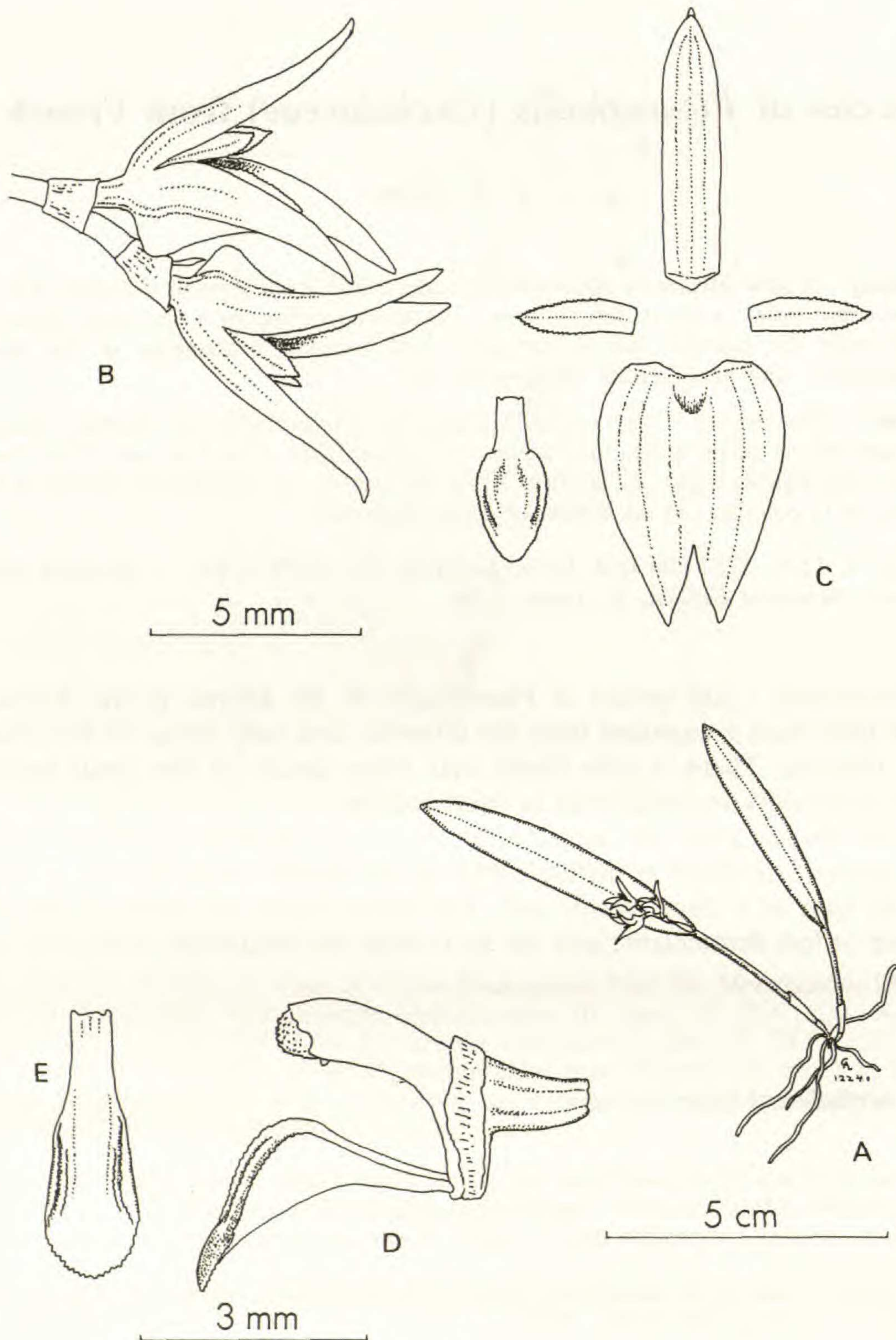


Fig. 1. — *Pleurothallis barthelemyi* Luer : A, habit ; B, flowers ; C, sepals and petals ; D, lip, column and ovary, side view ; E, lip, front view.

Inflorescence a crowded, simultaneously 2-4-flowered raceme, ca. 1 cm long including the peduncle 5 mm long, from a spathe 3 mm long at the base of the leaf ; floral bracts 2 mm long ; pedicels 0.75 mm long ; ovary 1 mm long ; sepals rose, fleshy, glabrous, the dorsal sepal linear-oblong, acute, 6.5 mm long, 1.6 mm wide, 3-veined, essentially free from the lateral sepals, the lateral sepals connate 3.5 mm to above the middle into a bifid lamina, 6 mm long, 4.5 mm wide, with acute apices, forming at the base a deep mentum below the column-foot ; petals rose, glabrous, linear-oblong, acute, minutely denticulate, 2.8 mm long, 0.75 mm wide, 1-veined ; lip rose, thick, obovoid, slightly arcuate, 3.5 mm long, 1 mm wide unexpanded, 4 mm long, 1.75 mm wide expanded, the apex broadly rounded, minutely denticulate, the sides erect and broadly rounded at and above the middle, the disc with a low pair of denticulate carina within the sides above the middle, the base narrowed, unguiculate, truncate, with minute, rounded, basal lobes at the angles, hinged to the base of the column ; column stout, terete, 2 mm long, the apex short, irregular, with the verruculose tip of the anther-cap protruding, the anther and stigma ventral, the foot stout, 1 mm long.

Only a single plant of this little member of section *Brachystachyae* was found fallen from a tall tree in a coastal forest of French Guyana. A prolonged search failed to produce a second plant. Therefore, this species is probably a dweller in the tops of tall trees which accounts for its apparent rarity. It is distinguished from the other members of the section by the small habit ; a very short, few-flowered raceme of rose-colored flowers borne at the base of a narrowly elliptical leaf ; acute sepals, the laterals with a prominent mentum below the column-foot ; acute, minutely denticulate petals ; and a thick lip with a low pair of minutely denticulate carinae within erect, rounded margins above the middle, and unguiculate below the middle.

Pleurothallis barthelemyi is most closely allied to the relatively frequent and variable *P. brunnescens* Schltr. that is widely distributed from Central America into the Andes. From the later, *P. barthelemyi* is distinguished by a prominent mentum at the base of the lateral sepals, and a lip widest above the middle with much smaller crests, and clawed below the middle.

This species is named in honor of Daniel BARTHELEMY of the Botanical Institute, Montpellier, France, co-discoverer of this species.